



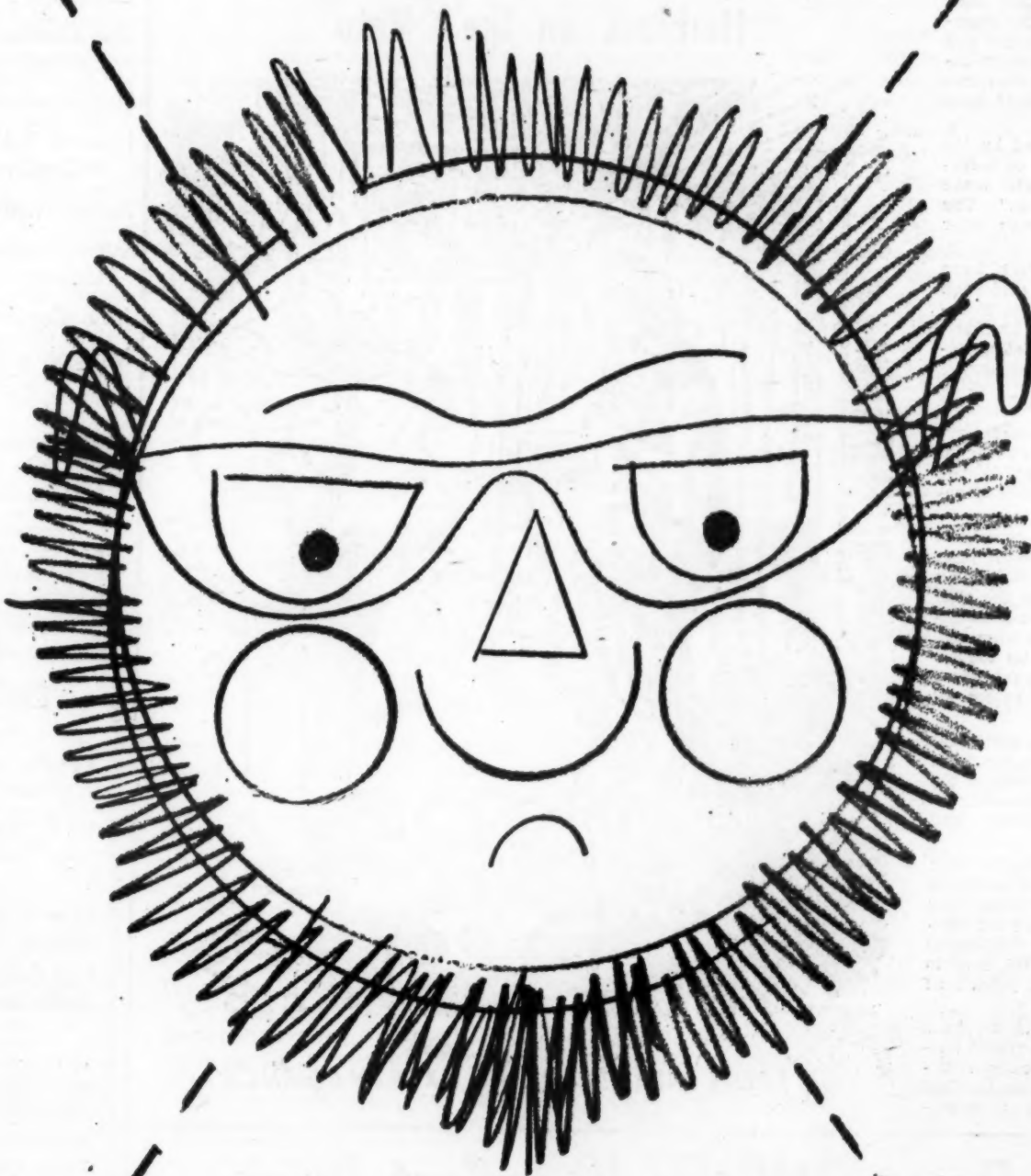
Vol. 6, No. 14 401 July 19, 1959

## ***Have a Happy, Healthy Vacation!***

*The next issue of The Record will be dated Aug. 16, four weeks from now. During this period, the staff of the newspaper, like many of its readers, will be enjoying vacations. So, from us to you—here's hoping you have a very pleasant vacation. See you next month!*

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**RWDSU Local Sets Pace  
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# 500,000 Walk as Union Charges Steel Industry 'Wanted Strike'

NEW YORK CITY—A half million members of the United Steelworkers of America went on strike at midnight July 14 under the union's "no-contract-no-work" policy. The move, which union Pres. David J. McDonald said was forced by the steel industry's "determination to have a strike," shut down the plants of 12 companies producing almost 90 percent of the nation's steel.

McDonald had declared that a basic agreement could have been reached "within an hour" if the companies met the union halfway.

The effect of the walkout was seen immediately in coal mines, in transportation and in shipping. Indications were that the strike would be long—longer perhaps than the 55-day shutdown in the summer of 1952.

The companies, earlier insisting on a one-year wage freeze, had shifted their position under public pressure, but maintained that any increase in wages and fringe benefits had to be offset by increased management authority to eliminate what they called "wasteful" work practices.

This proposal was condemned by the union as an effort to "enslave in industrial peonage our members who made possible their staggering profits." The Steelworkers called for a wage offer without strings.

The strike ended a two-week truce period following the original expiration date of June 30. The truce was in response to a plea to both sides by President Eisenhower to keep negotiating until they had arrived at an agreement.

## Huge Profits in Steel

Sen. Kefauver (D. Tenn.) issued a report showing there was "ample room for a reasonable upward adjustment" in steel wages without affecting the price structure.

Additional evidence that the companies could afford wage boosts without price boosts was seen in advance "leaks" on second quarter 1959 profits in the steel industry pointing to even more embarrassing profits. Steel officials were said to be hard put in dreaming up excuses for denying their employees a fair share of king-size profits expected to top all previous marks.

These developments led the companies to make a pay offer, but on condition that they be given wider latitude in the delicate area of local work practices to end what they called "loafing" and "featherbedding."

The union replied indignantly that there were no contract bars to maximum efficiency and proposed leaving this question to future study by a joint committee. But the companies stubbornly held that higher wages would have to be deferred until the union yielded on "management rights."

Public sentiment appeared to have shifted to support of the union and condemnation of the industry position. Official and non-official Washington had hailed the union's display of statesman-

ship, urging the steel industry to show a similar spark of good faith. Many Congressmen and at least 14 Senators, led by Majority Whip Mike Mansfield, said publicly it was up to the corporations to meet the union "half-way" because of the restraint and patience demonstrated by Steelworkers.

An editorial in the influential Washington Post & Times Herald, on June 30, said: "The steel industry will hardly be able to convince anyone that it wants to

avoid a strike after the hard-nosed statement issued by its chief negotiator, R. Conrad Cooper." The editorial added that "a re-examination of its position" was the least the public expected from the steel industry in the interest of a peaceful contract settlement.

Wage settlements in other industries, widely reported in the press, caused many government, public and civic leaders to wonder why more prosperous steel titans are holding the line against Steelworkers.

## Herblock on Ike's Veto



"I WANT TO SAVE YOU FROM INFLATION AND EXTRAVAGANCE"

## Locals Press RWDSU-Histadrut Drive

Strong efforts to involve more locals in the RWDSU-Histadrut Campaign were being planned last week as the funds collected mounted past the \$30,000 mark. Exec. Sec. Jack Paley, who is serving as the director of the campaign, pointed out that a majority of the locals of the RWDSU have yet to be heard from, and that others have raised only token contributions thus far.

In the two weeks that ended July 14, Paley noted, only two new locals—Local 28 in Charlotte, N. C., and 101 in Pittsburgh, Pa.—were added to the roster of those who have contributed to the campaign to raise \$100,000 for the construction of a cultural center in Ramat Gan, Israel under the auspices of that nation's labor federation, Histadrut. All the other contributions,

which are being raised by members' donations and advertisements from employers under contract with RWDSU locals, came in from locals which had contributed previously.

The list of recent contributions follows. The figures in parentheses are the totals contributed to date by the respective locals, following the current donations.

### HISTADRUT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS Up to July 14, 1959

Total Received as of 6/30/59		\$28,824.35
Local	28	Charlotte, N. C. 25.00
	101	Pittsburgh, Pa. 200.00
	260	New York, N. Y. 16.75 ( 47.50)
	262	Newark, N. J. 25.00 ( 200.00)
	721	New York, N. Y. 739.50 (3,328.50)
	1034	Philadelphia, Pa. 50.00 ( 115.00)
	1125	New York, N. Y. 50.00 (5,151.70)
District	65	New York, N. Y. 650.00 (6,675.00)
Grand Total		1,756.25 \$30,580.60

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### Note on Change of Address

When sending in a change of address to The Record, please make sure to include your old address as well as the new, and your local's number.

### RWDSU RECORD

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# Strike of 1,000 Victorious In Birmingham Bakeries

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—A 15-day strike by the 1,000 workers of the "Big Four" of Birmingham's baking industry ended July 12 with a settlement that brings gains in every phase of the contract to all job categories.

Wage boosts of up to \$11 a week were won by the production, transport, maintenance and sales employees of the Ward, McGough, American and National Biscuit plants in a new three-year agreement that also provides improved welfare and pension coverage. The guaranteed minimum in salesmen's earnings was increased by \$24 a week.

"This is an outstanding contract," Ass't Area Director Frank Parker said, comparing it to current settlements elsewhere in the nation's baking industry. "Our members feel that they have won a real fine contract. And they're well aware that it could not have been won without a strike. They know that the strike paid dividends."

One of the more significant dividends, Parker noted, is the greater uniformity of wages and conditions in the four plants. Disparity in pay and fringe benefits among the various groups had long been a source of dissatisfaction among many of the bakery workers.

The walkout began at midnight June 27 after three months of fruitless negotiations by RWDSU's Local 441 with the city-wide management group representing the "Big Four." Forced to strike by the operators' refusal to grant any concessions, the action by the 1,000 employees brought a complete shutdown of the four plants.

The last of a series of talks starting Saturday morning, July 11, finally produced a settlement at 4 a.m. the next day. On Sunday, the membership ratified the new contract and it was signed a few hours later, the em-

ployees returning to work midnight Sunday.

The determination of the strikers to win improvements was buttressed by voluntary offers of financial assistance by sister locals of '441' throughout the state. Many passed resolutions to make regular contributions for the duration of the strike. Parker hailed these moves as "a great show of solidarity" within the RWDSU Alabama Council.

## 31 Improvements for Workers

In terms covering the production, transport and maintenance employees, 31 changes were made in the contract, each one providing an improvement in wages, working conditions and fringe benefits. The gains add up to a package of almost 27 cents, of which 24 cents is in wages. First of the three-stage increases is 5-1/2% retroactive to last May 9; the others are 4-1/2% in 1960 and 4% in 1961.

Parker noted that all but three cents of the total gain goes into all-important cash in the pay envelopes.

The five holidays will be paid on the basis of eight hours instead of the former seven; vacation pay will be based on average hours worked instead of the former 40 hours pay for each week of vacation.

In the union-industry health and welfare plan, the employer will now pay at the rate of seven cents per hour into the fund for each employee, starting on the first day of employment up to a maximum of \$2.80 per week, instead of the former six cents after 80 days employment.

Similarly, the operators will now pay into the pension fund at the rate of five cents per hour for each employee from the first day of employment, instead of waiting 30 days. In addition, 75 production workers, formerly excluded from the plan, are now covered.

Breakdown pay for transport drivers was also written into the contract. And employees may now take a one

year's leave of absence to work for the union.

Driver-salesmen's wages were boosted in the new contract by \$11; \$5 retroactive to last May 9, \$3 in 1960 and \$3 in 1961. Minimums for "extra" salesmen (those without sufficient seniority to operate their own routes) were raised from \$62 to \$76; and "advertising" men—distributors of posters and stickers—were also set at \$75.

The guaranteed weekly minimum in earnings for driver-salesmen, formerly set at \$56, was hiked to \$75 this year and \$80 in 1960. Layoff notice to salesmen was extended and severance pay increased. The contract further stipulates that salesmen may be discharged only for drunkenness on the job or theft.

The schedule for employer payments into the health and welfare fund for driver-salesmen was improved to match those for production workers. Moreover, 100 salesmen of the American and McGough bakeries, not formerly covered by the welfare and pension plans, were included in the new pact.

A group of 40 shop stewards representing all departments in the four struck plants constituted a policy committee that guided the negotiations. Later, a sub-committee consisting of the chairmen of the production and sales groups was formed to participate directly in negotiations. This sub-committee included: B. M. Wainwright and R. B. Henderson of Ward's; Lewis Oddo and William Bordelon of National Biscuit; Melvin Simpson and Northern Plunkett of American; and "Bull" Lang and Ben Stadler of McGough.

Leading this group at the bargaining table were Parker, Int'l Rep. Bill Langston and Local 441 Pres. Jack Fields. Assistance in bringing about the settlement was given by William S. Pierce, Regional Director of the U.S. Mediation and Conciliation Service.

## Congress Takes Big Step Towards Better Pay Law

### Senate Unit Votes \$1.25 Minimum, Coverage for Million More

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The first big Congressional step towards improving the Federal wage-hour law was taken on Friday, July 10, when the Senate Labor Subcommittee voted to boost the minimum rate to \$1.25 an hour and to bring 10 million workers under the law's protection.

The surprise vote came at the first meeting of the subcommittee on the Kennedy bill. Senator John F. Kennedy (Dem., Mass.), sponsor of the bill and chairman of the subcommittee, termed the committee's measure a "reasonable bill," and he was optimistic about its passage by Congress.

Although the subcommittee modified a number of provisions of the labor-supported Kennedy bill, its proposals on coverage would bring more workers under the law than the original bill, which would have extended coverage to 7½ million additional workers. Of the 10 million newly-covered workers, about 7,000,000 would be retail employees.

The boost in the minimum wage to \$1.25 an hour for the 24 million workers who are now covered by the law would be accomplished in two stages: 90 days after the law is enacted, the minimum would go to \$1.15 an hour; a year later, it would reach \$1.25. Overtime would be at the rate of time and one-half after 40 hours. The committee also voted a cut in the seasonal exemptions allowed to food packing plants, which would affect members of the RWDSU engaged in food processing.

Two additional separate minimum wage schedules would cover retail employees. The first, covering about six million employees of retail firms which have an annual sales volume of \$750,000 or over, would bring these employees to the \$1.25 minimum and overtime after 40 hours in a four-year progression, as follows:

- 90 days after the law is passed, retail firms would have to pay \$1 an hour minimum and time and a half for overtime after 46 hours; a year later, \$1.10 an hour and 44 hours; the third year,

- \$1.20 and 42 hours; and the fourth year, \$1.25 and 40 hours.

- Employees of smaller retail firms which are engaged in interstate commerce would come under the present \$1 an hour minimum wage 18 months after the bill becomes law, but would not get premium overtime pay protection.

Other features of the bill include the removal of exemptions in such industries as fish processing, building and construction, and local transit. The cut in seasonal exemptions for canners of fruits and vegetables brings the allowance down to 20 weeks of overtime exemptions: 12 hours a day, or 56 hours a week. The 20-week exemption would be cut to 14 weeks after the first year.

The bill now goes before the full Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, which is headed by Sen. Lister Hill (Dem., Ala.). Democrats have a 9-6 majority on that committee, but it is uncertain when the bill will come before it. Democratic Congressional leaders said that if the full committee releases a wage-hour bill soon, it will be scheduled for Senate action in this session. However, action by the House of Representatives is believed to be unlikely before the current session ends.

The Senate subcommittee action sent lobbyists for retail companies into a frenzy of activity. Vice-Pres. John C. Hazen of the National Retail Merchants Ass'n warned that there is "a real threat of passage this year."

Rowland Jones, Jr., president of the American Retail Federation, denounced the subcommittee's bill as discriminatory.

a "hodge-podge" and generally no good. The retail associations' Washington offices were reported busy over the weekend "advising member-groups and stores of the threat represented by the subcommittee's action."

On labor's side of the fence, AFL-CIO leaders—especially those active in the Joint Committee on the Minimum Wage, which includes the RWDSU and 18 other unions—are planning ways to step up

union activity on behalf of the proposed legislation.

The RWDSU's legislative representative, Kenneth A. Meiklejohn, has been working with the Senate subcommittee for months in an effort to bring a bill extending coverage onto the floor of the Senate as a first step. He reported that the chances of winning extension have been "enormously increased" by the subcommittee's action.



TESTIMONY ON COVERAGE was given by RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg, center, to Senate Labor Subcommittee on May 7, first day of hearings on Kennedy wage-hour bill. Labor won important first step in subcommittee vote July 10 to extend coverage to 10 million more workers. With Pres. Greenberg in photo are 'Record' Editor Max Steinbock and Legislative Rep. Kenneth Meiklejohn.



# LABOR NEWS ROUNDUP

## Compensation, Jobless Aid Improved in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—The Illinois Legislature voted moderate improvements in unemployment and workmen's compensation programs and defeated three bills labeled "anti-labor" by the State AFL-CIO before adjourning on July 1.

On the eve of adjournment, Senate Republicans killed a fair employment practices bill which had been endorsed by GOP Gov. William G. Stratton and passed overwhelmingly by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives.

The jobless compensation legislation, based on compromise recommendations of an advisory committee representing labor, industry and the public, came in two packages:

- An increase in maximum benefits from \$30 to \$32 a week for a single person and from \$45 to \$50 for a worker with four or more children.
- A provision automatically extending the state's 26 weeks of unemployment compensation to 39 weeks whenever statewide unemployment reaches 4.375 percent or more for two months in a row. The extension would remain in effect until the jobless ratio dropped below that figure for two successive months.

The unusual percentage figure was the result of compromise between labor representatives on the advisory committee, who wanted a lower ratio, and industry members who wanted it higher.

The anti-labor bills which were defeated, either in committee or on the floor, included legislation which would have severely restricted organizational picketing, a bill which would have opened the door to harassment suits against unions and legislation setting up a so-called "little McClellan committee" in the legislature.

The workmen's compensation bill boosts benefits \$6 a week and raises death benefits by \$1,500. Similar increases were voted in separate legislation amending the Occupational Diseases Act.

Labor-backed bills which failed of enactment as the legislature adjourned included a State Labor Relations Act and a bill establishing a \$1 an hour minimum wage for intrastate commerce.

## Weekend Premium Pay Noted

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Premium pay for work on Saturday or Sunday is now a common feature of union contracts, according to the May-June issue of Collective Bargaining Reports, publication of the AFL-CIO Dept. of Research.

Almost 60 percent of major agreements—those covering 1,000 or more workers—now call for extra pay on Saturdays. This is usually time and one-half the regular rate of pay.

The report is based on a new study of major agreements by the U.S. Dept. of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The study surveyed 1,736 pacts covering some 7.8 million workers, or about half of all workers under union contracts, excepting railway and airline employees.

"These weekend-premium provisions reflect recognition of the inconvenience of working on a day which most people enjoy as a day off from work," the bargaining report said. "They serve also to deter employers from scheduling work on such days."



**UNIONIST'S SON SETS RECORD:** John Curtis Thomas, son of Curtis Thomas, Division 589, Amalgamated Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees, makes high jump at Boston U. meet. The younger Thomas holds world's record for high jump, 7 feet, 1 1/4 inches.

## Court Upholds Picketing Of Shopping Center Store

BALTIMORE, Md.—A Maryland court has ruled that pickets cannot be barred from a privately-owned shopping center, that organizational picketing within the shopping center is protected by the right of free speech, and that the principle of federal pre-emption precludes any interference by a state or city court with the right to picket.

Criminal Court Judge Edwin Harlan made these points in reversing a Magistrate's Court conviction of a union organizer for "trespass by picketing."

The union organizer was arrested for picketing a drug store in the Mundawmin Shopping Center in defiance of notices posted at entrances reading: "No solicitors, peddlers, picketers permitted on Mundawmin property without consent of the owners. Those not securing such consent will be considered trespassers and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

The case was pressed on appeal as the first test in Maryland of the right to picket in a shopping center.

Judge Harlan declared that opening the shopping center to the public had made it "a quasi-public place" and added that "a tenant in a shopping center deserves no special immunity from labor union activity over that of the tenant elsewhere."

## 'Work' Group to Fight To 'Last Republican'

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Sponsors of so-called "right-to-work" laws, who "set the Republican party back a decade" last year, "apparently are willing to fight to the last Republican in 1960," Fred Hall, former GOP governor of Kansas, has charged.

Hall blasted an announcement by the National Right to Work Committee that it intends to "fight harder than ever" for laws outlawing the union shop. He said the committee had shown that "the 'right-to-work' sponsors view Republicans as expendable."

He charged that "pressure" brought on Republican candidates by "influential sponsors" of "work" laws was responsible for the loss by the GOP of 13 U.S. Senate seats, 49 members of the House, eight governorships and control of nearly a dozen state legislatures.

Despite this, Hall declared, the "right-to-work" groups "now brazenly indicate they plan to renew pressure on Republican candidates to support these unwise and dangerous state laws in the 1960 campaign."

Hall cited statements by former Republican National Chairman Meade Alcorn and the present GOP chairman, Sen. Thruston Morton (Ky.), warning against linking the Republican Party to "right-to-work" laws.

He quoted Alcorn as acknowledging that backing "work" laws is "political suicide" and attributing the defeat of "scores of candidates for national, state and local offices largely to the 'right-to-work' issue."

Morton, he pointed out, recently asserted his opposition to "work" laws and declared that "decisions relating to the union shop should be determined by collective bargaining between employers and unions and not through 'right-to-work' laws."

Despite these warnings, Hall declared, the National Right to Work Committee's "cynical answer . . . is to ignore this political fact-of-life and wade into the critically important 1960 presidential election with the 'right-to-work' flag flying."

## Illness Hits Lower Earners

WASHINGTON (PAI)—The lower your income the more likely you are to lose working days because of illness and injury. Latest survey by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare shows that workers with family incomes under \$2,000 a year lost an average of 10.3 days from work during the year ending June 30, 1958.

Those in families earning \$7,000 and over, on the other hand, lost only 5.9 days during the same period. Respiratory illnesses as a group were the leading cause of activity restriction. They were responsible for 40 percent of all activity restriction and half of all days in bed. The totals for this group of diseases were affected by the Asian influenza epidemic, but even in a normal year the respiratory diseases are likely to head the list.

Circulatory diseases, including heart disease, ranked second in terms of total volume of disability, followed by injuries and their chronic effects, with digestive diseases running a close fourth.

## 'Labor Monopoly' Charge Has Amusing Contradictions

WASHINGTON (PAI)—Some of the very groups which publicly speak in ominous tones of how the "labor monopoly" is running the country now are boasting that the time when trade unions could win important gains for their members is gone.

This interesting revelation was brought to light in an unusually frank article in Business Week Magazine in which it bluntly claimed that "an era in labor-management relations is at an end."

BW, one of the nation's leading business publications, indirectly has served to support the basic contention of organized labor that current labor laws already on the books—particularly Taft-Hartley—plus a maze of economic and political factors are playing directly into management hands.

Not the least of these factors is carefully cultivated fear of inflation which is being used with cutting effectiveness by the Administration, reactionary and business interests.

"Today more than any time in the last quarter-century, employers have the advantage at negotiating tables and they are using it confidently and effectively," says BW. "Unions are on the defensive."

The publication uses the current steel negotiations as a case in point, adding that the "White House is

now in the thick of the dispute." It says that the Administration is not so much interested in stopping a possible strike as it is in getting a settlement it likes—specifically blocking a good wage increase.

BW reviews the history of major bargaining in the last 25 years. It observed that through union-won wage increases "the question facing the industrial worker had turned from 'Can I live?' to 'How well can I live?' to 'What kind of life do I want to lead.'"

"But all this time the power balance had been shifting," says BW. "The shift began in 1947 with the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act. Labor protested that it could be used to 'shackle' unions and to take away bargaining gains. The showdown was delayed for years. The unions were strong and the economic times were in their favor."

Other points stressed by BW were that labor also lost its easy access to the White House, that Federal economic policies had changed, "tight" money has made borrowing more difficult and the McClellan Committee hearings had given encouragement to businessmen.

The business community itself, the magazine declared, is making its determined stand against the unions. On the steel dispute it said:

"It's no longer news that 12 major steel companies are coordinating their bargaining stand. What isn't so

widely recognized is the coordination between steel and other industries.

"In 1957, there was a series of round-robin talks among labor relations officials of the electrical manufacturing, steel and auto industries. These set the stage for the 'tough' bargaining that has come to a climax this year.

"Talks among these industries are continuing. Within the past week spokesmen in the electrical manufacturing and auto industries have acknowledged that their companies are keeping in close touch with the steel talks in New York. One puts his hands to his chin, commenting: 'We're involved up to here.'"

Apparently, large groups of industry are now determined to move against escalator clauses, others want a firm stop against all wage gains beyond what they consider the annual productivity improvement.

Business Week, in an editorial, gives two reasons for supporting the drive to build up fear of inflation. One, which union economists have soundly countered, is that it means pricing ourselves out of the world market. The second is that "because spreading knowledge of the effects of inflation on savings is making it increasingly hard to manage our public debt without causing further inflation and dangerously feeding the speculative fervor of the people."





**HONORARY MEMBERSHIP** in RWDSU Local 377 is conferred on Queens (N.Y.C.) Borough President John T. Clancy, fourth from left, by union leaders. Also presented to Clancy in ceremony in Queens Borough Hall was union's resolution of commendation of his record. Left to right, above, are: Borough Works Commissioner J. Wolfe Chassen, '377' Business Rep. Napoleon Massa, Pres. Peter P. Bush, Clancy, Fin. Sec. Irving A. Rapaport and Business Rep. Dominick Ruiz.

## 140 Syrup Plant Employees Win \$9.50 in New Agreement

NEW YORK CITY—A total of 140 workers in 22 plants, members of RWDSU Local 193, United Syrup and Preserves Employees Union, won raises adding up to \$9.50 over a three-year period in a new contract negotiated with the employers' group. Welfare provisions were also improved in the settlement.

Leaders of the union described the contract as "a major victory." It was estimated the wage boost would cost the employers approximately \$100,000. The raises will be paid in three stages: \$3.50 retroactive to last May 1; \$2.50 on the first anniversary date, and \$3.50 on May 1, 1961.

Commission employees received an increase of 1% in volume sales. Half is to be effective in 1960 and half in 1961. The boost will amount to an estimated \$500 a year. Route men received an increase in the empty-bottle allowance, doubling the previous rate, plus an additional allowance for "equalization."

Under terms of the new pact, the employers will increase their contributions to the Welfare Plan to \$11 for each employee, making possible larger benefits provided by the plan. The employers further agreed to pay the entire cost of State Disability benefits, saving employees up to 30 cents a week.

The new Local 193 contract was won only after a strike vote was taken by the members following a series of unsatisfactory offers by the employers group. Day and night negotiations led to an offer at the deadline which the members finally voted to accept by a 4 to 1 margin.

### Outlet Beauty Shop Earning Chances Rise

PROVIDENCE, R.I.—Opportunities for sizeable increases in the earnings of the operators and receptionists of the beauty salon in the Outlet Store here, members of RWDSU Local 442, were made possible under terms of a new contract, it was reported by Int'l Rep. Nat Kushner.

Under terms of the pact, negotiated with the concessionaire of the salon, Seligman and Latz, Inc., the 28 employees receive the same general \$2-a-week wage increase won earlier in the year by Outlet's 800 regular employees.

In addition, the operators and receptionists, who also receive commissions, are to work on a quota bonus system that can yield extra income. Kushner said that each operator has the opportunity to improve her earnings if she reaches the bonus quota.

Assisting Kushner in negotiations were Local 442 Pres. Grace Barney and Steward Ann Cicchetti.

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### 22 Cent Rise in Mass. At Parke-Davis Co.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—A new three-year contract providing raises of 22 cents an hour for employees of the Parke-Davis Co. warehouse has been negotiated by the RWDSU, it was announced by the New England Joint Board.

Of the total raise, 12 cents is to be paid this year, and five cents in 1960 and in 1961. A cost-of-living clause in the pact provides that one cent is to be added for each one-half point increase in the COL index. Another gain is the addition of a third week vacation for employees after 10 years' service.

Serving on the negotiation committee were NEJB Vice Pres. Irving J. Rich, Richard Dunn, John Simeonean and M. Doucet.

## Apparel Salesmen Gain in Fall River Pact

FALL RIVER, Mass.—Earnings of regular full time salesmen in the 11 stores operated by the Anderson-Little apparel chain in New England are expected to show substantial boosts in the next year, working under a new contract recently negotiated by their union, the RWDSU. Non-selling employees received raises of from \$3 to \$6 in the new agreement.

The company will guarantee a minimum of \$4,000 to each of the 75 salesmen within a five-day-40-hour week in the first year in which the sales force has been on this schedule, it was reported by Int'l Rep. Nat Kushner of the New England Joint Board. The commission rate was set at 4.25% of the total gross sales.

The agreement further provides a guarantee of a minimum for the sixth day "buy-back" plus a negotiated minimum amount of PM's, and time and a half pay for extra sessions.

Vacation pay is to be based on average earnings. And Blue Cross and physician service plans are provided for the employees and their families, paid for entirely by the company.

Kushner explained that if the sales in the Anderson-Little stores do not fall below those of 1958, some salesmen would increase their earnings under the new agreement up to \$1,500 over the figures in 1958, when their earnings rose by as much as \$1,500 over the previous year.

Assisting Kushner in the contract talks were Int'l Reps. Joseph Casey and Irving Rich.

## New York & Northeast

# Willoughby's Camera Settles '65' Contract With Key Gains Made

NEW YORK CITY—The world's biggest camera store, Willoughby's, settled its contract renewal with District 65 this month, providing substantial wage increases as well as a host of other improvements to the 135 employees, Sec.-Treas. Cleveland Robinson reported.

This was District 65's second contract with the firm since the employees organized two years ago. Included are a number of benefits that Robinson said "fill out" the agreement and make it a standard '65' contract. Among these are improvements in trial periods, and procedure for transfers to other departments, rest periods, increased overtime pay for Sundays and holidays, and other gains.

Major gains were wage increases of \$5 a week this year and \$2 next year for non-selling employees; \$3 and \$2 for all salespersons but camera sales, and base pay boosts of \$1.50 this year and \$2 next year for camera salesmen. Minimums were raised substantially in most categories, with the lowest paid jobs, messenger and general office, rated at \$59 and \$60, respectively, after 6 months on the job.

The difference between the wage increases of non-selling and sales employees was the result of agreement among the employees that major emphasis should be put on the non-selling wages.

Robinson pointed out that the salesmen's earnings had improved substantially in recent months due to an influx of new business.

### Triple Time on Holidays

Sunday and holiday work will be paid for at the rate of triple time; cost-of-living reviews will be held every 6 months; sick leave was increased from 3 to 5 days a year and will be cumulative; stewards will have top seniority; and salesmen's trial periods are reduced to 30 days from 60.

One important issue was not resolved. That was establishment of the '65' Pension Plan, which the union and management agreed would be "item number one" in negotiations on the contract two years from now, Robinson said.

Negotiations lasted over about six weeks, with General Org. Max Klarer leading the shop committee until the final week, when Sec.-Treas. Robinson joined the negotiations.

### '338' Improves Health Benefit; 18 More Retire

NEW YORK CITY—Improvements in the Local 338 Health and Welfare Plan were put into effect last month. At the same time, 18 more members became beneficiaries of the union's retirement program, it was announced by Pres. Julius Sum.

Recognizing the increased costs in surgery, the Retail Food Employees Union membership approved a recommendation by the executive board to boost surgical benefits under the Health and Welfare Plan for members using private doctors. The ceiling for reimbursement was doubled—from \$50 to \$100.

Most members have surgery performed by doctors on the plan's medical panel. In those cases, the entire cost is borne by the plan, for members and their families. The new improvement applies only to surgery performed by non-panel doctors.

With the retirement of 18 additional members, the total now enjoying benefits under the '338' Pension Plan is 73. Four of the new retirements were approved under the total disability provision. All the others are at least 65 years of age.

At the plan's board of trustees meeting which approved the new retirements, it was reported that the interest and earnings from investments of the plan's funds were ample to cover the present benefits and the operation of the program.

## "Song of Norway"

AT THE MAGNIFICENT JONES BEACH MARINE THEATRE

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS have been made available to all Record readers in the New York area on tickets for the widely acclaimed musical play, "Song of Norway", running at the Jones Beach Marine Theater through Sept. 7. To get tickets, fill out coupon below and send as directed.

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## The Midwest

# Raises, Fringe Gains At Weston Biscuit

BATTLE CREEK, Mich.—Wages of the Weston Biscuit Co. employees here, members of RWDSU Local 815, Bakery Workers Union, were boosted in a two-year contract, it was reported by Int'l Rep. John V. Kirkwood. Improvements in fringe benefits were also gained.

## Jobless Benefits Up in Iowa, But Loopholes Added

DES MOINES, Iowa (PAI) — The Iowa legislature has raised the weekly maximum under its unemployment compensation program from \$30 to \$44—but the "protection" has more loopholes than the proverbial sieve. One of several qualifications for the maximum benefit is that the worker must have four or more children.

This was stressed by Gov. Hershell Loveless as he signed the bill into law with great reluctance. He also said that about half of Iowa's labor force may be eligible for slightly higher benefits under the new law. He signed the bill, he added, because it does contain some beneficial features. He also observed it is actually a "very weak bill" in many respects.

A general pay raise of five percent for the year 1958 was agreed upon, while eight cents per hour was added for 1959. In addition, wage adjustments were made in some job classifications.

One more paid holiday was added in the new pact for a total of eight; and four weeks paid vacation was provided after 20 years of service. The health insurance plan was improved to provide sick benefits of \$40 a week for a maximum of 26 weeks. More complete coverage for children of female employees was also won.

Members of the negotiating committee were Local 815 Pres. Jay Ainsworth, Vice-Pres. Tilbert Ashburn, Sec.-Treas. Virginia Smith, Chief Stewardess Mary Ledbetter, Chief Steward Kenneth Richfield, and member-at-large Alice Snyder. They were assisted by Kirkwood.

Almost all the committee members were re-elected. Howard Wofford was named Chief Steward, and Vince Hargis member-at-large.



UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE charges filed against Lex Mayers Chevrolet agency in Columbus, O., for firing of three salesmen are reviewed by Int'l Rep. Ned Harkless, left, and one of the salesmen, Buckle Whitlatch.

## NLRB Acts on Car Salesmen Firing

COLUMBUS, O. — Auto salesmen throughout the city are awaiting with keen interest the outcome of the National Labor Relations Board hearing on the firing of three Chevrolet agency salesmen who joined the RWDSU.

The men were discharged last month at the end of a swift organizing drive at the Lex Mayers Chevrolet Sales Co., when the union filed a petition for a representation election. Reasons for the firings were obvious anti-labor pretex-

for the men are among the best of the company's salesmen, Int'l Rep. Ned Harkless pointed out.

"Car salesmen the city over are deeply concerned about the case," Harkless said, "since the Lex Mayers employees are the first group of auto salesmen to be organized in this area. 'We're confident that the NLRB will make clear to everyone that the fired auto salesmen do have rights—that freedom of speech also covers them.'"

# '1064' Wins First Pensions in Michigan Hotel Field

DETROIT, Mich.—The first union-won pension plan in the hotel and restaurant field in the state of Michigan has been negotiated by the RWDSU's Local 1064.

The plan, entirely financed by the employer, was established in a contract between Local 1064, Catering, Restaurant, Bar and Hotel Workers, and the Dearborn Inn in nearby Dearborn. Some 125 employees are covered by the plan, which became effective July 1.

Also won for the Dearborn Inn workers in the same two-year contract was a general 10-cent wage increase. Another gain was the preservation of seniority up to two years during periods of layoff or sickness.

Wages and conditions at the Dearborn, a first-rate hotel which has been under contract to '1064' since 1950, were the best in the industry in the state of Michigan before the new agreement, General Sec. Paul Domeny pointed out. With the addition of the pension plan, the Dearborn employees now enjoy a uniquely superior set of benefits.

### Milestone in '1064' Progress

"With the establishment of the plan, our union marks another milestone in its progress," said Domeny. "And we are especially proud that the honor of negotiating the first union-employer pension plan in Michigan's hotel-restaurant industry fell to '1064'."

"This plan means that the Dearborn Inn employees will not have to depend on the generosity of their employer for a measure of security in their later years. Through their union, they have won this security for themselves in our new pension plan. Supplementing Social Security benefits, the pension benefits will make life easier for our retired members, helping them to overcome financial problems of their older years. We hope that this will be the first of many other retirement plans in our industry."

Local 1064 collaborated with the Dearborn Inn in another trailblazing development in the industry in 1954, when the Dearborn became the first hotel in the state to institute the 40 hour week.

An outstanding example of the superiority of wages and conditions in effect there is in the pay for bellmen. They get \$42 a week—with the new raise—plus meals, as compared to the \$21 paid

to bellmen in hotels in downtown Detroit.

Vacation schedules at the Dearborn furnish another contrast. Employees there get two weeks after two years, as against the five years required in Detroit hotels. They also receive six days paid sick leave after one year's service; other hotels have none. Moreover, they are covered by Blue Cross, for which they pay 40% of the cost. They receive sick and accident benefits up to \$55 a week, and are covered by life insurance policy ranging from \$1,500 to \$4,500, scaled according to their wages.

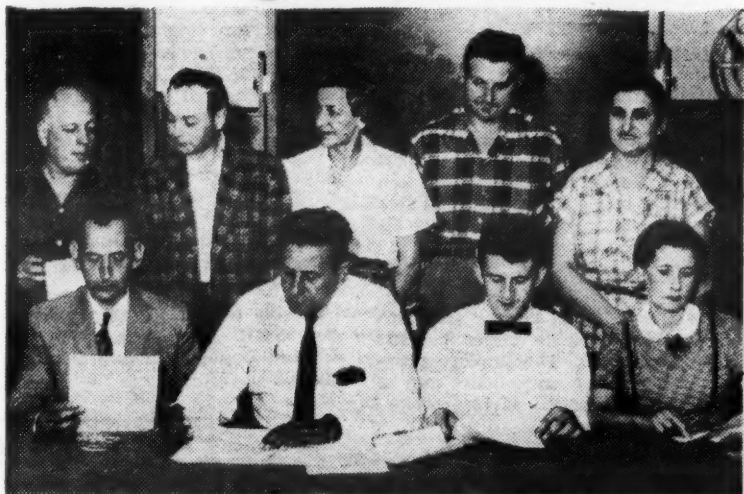
The winning of the pension plan for the Dearborn Inn employees was the culmination of a three-year campaign by Local 1064, Domeny said.

Under terms of the new plan, an employee at age 65 with 20 years of service credit receives a pension of \$30 a month for the rest of his or her life. Maximum benefit is \$45.

### Major Points of Plan

Other major points of the plan, which was overwhelmingly ratified by the membership, are as follows:

- The normal retirement age is 65 with at least 10 years of credited service. Monthly benefit for each year of service is \$1.50, subject to a maximum of 30 years.
- Disability retirement for an employee who becomes totally and permanently disabled after age 50 and before 65, after completing 15 years of service, amounts to a maximum of \$90. When the employee becomes eligible for Social Security, the amount reverts to the normal pension benefit.
- If an employee with at least 10 years service terminates employment after age 40—and before he becomes eligible for a retirement benefit—he is entitled to a vested pension benefit commencing at age 65.



LEADERS OF PENSION PLAN negotiations for RWDSU Local 1064, Catering, Restaurant, Bar and Hotel Workers, with Dearborn Inn, Dearborn, Mich. Seated, left to right, are Lawrence Cardenas, '1064' General Sec. Paul Domeny, William O'Brien and Aileen Carmichael. Standing: Albert M. Carlin, James Lawlor, Sophia Kaczka, Frank Bogya and Grace McDougall.



MEMBERS OKAY PENSION PLAN by secret ballot. Casting votes June 29 on proposed retirement program, Dearborn Inn employees overwhelmingly give approval by 5 to 1 margin. Plan is first in Michigan's hotel and restaurant industry, and members hope it is the first of many retirement plans in their industry in the state.



## Grandmas Tell Textile Strikers' Plight



These two grandmothers from TWUA Local 584, Henderson, N.C., Mrs. Mae Renn and Mrs. Esher Johnson, meet with Milltown, N. J. workers in fund-raising tour to win support for strikers at Henderson, engaged in long, bitter strike to save their union at two cotton mills. Calling their trip "a crusade for unionism all over our country," the grandmothers everywhere touched the hearts and minds of their listeners. All meetings they attended passed resolutions of support, moral and financial, for strikers.

## 'Biggest Raise' in Atlanta at Economy Auto Stores W'hse

ATLANTA, Ga.—Pay raises were won by the employees of the Economy Auto Stores warehouse and the Evans Metal Co. here in new agreements with RWDSU Local 315, it was reported by Int'l Rep. Guy Dickinson.

At the warehouse, the new two-year agreement provides for a wage increase of 10 cents an hour retroactive to June 4, with a wage reopener on the first anniversary date.

The metal company employees received a five cents an hour boost in a wage reopener of a two-year pact.

"The Economy members were very pleased with the settlement," Dickinson said, "because this was the largest wage boost they've received for one year since joining the RWDSU in 1955."

In addition, the Economy members won improved seniority protection and the elimination of a training period for new employees before receiving the contract pay rate.

Serving on the union's negotiating committee, in addition to Dickinson, were Jim Newman, Jackie Ferguson, L. L. Mitchell and R. C. Mann.

## Arkansas Labor Backs Up Fight For Public Schools

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (PAI)—Arkansas trade union leaders are planning to establish a committee to try to preserve the free public school system in the state.

Preservation of public schools has become a major issue since last September when Gov. Orval E. Faubus closed public high schools to circumvent court ordered integration.

Among the union leaders who are working for the committee are Allen Bryant of Hot Springs, state director of the United Steelworkers; William A. Kimberling of Little Rock, state director of the UAW; George Ellison of Fort Smith, state director of the Committee on Political Education; Bob Parket of Fayetteville, president of Food Handlers Local 425, and Odell Smith, president of Teamster Local 878, Little Rock, and former president of the State AFL-CIO.

The Arkansas Labor Bulletin, State AFL-CIO publication, said in an editorial that labor recognized public schools as "the great equalizer in our society."

The publication also asked its readers who are parents of public school children to answer a questionnaire which asks, among other things, if they believe the public schools can be maintained in the face of the current integration crisis.

## Florida Chemical Workers' Strike in Second Month

BARTOW, Florida (PAI) — Local 36 of the International Chemical Workers is now in the second month of its strike against Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company with 650 workers out. The company is insisting on nullifying improvements in the contract, some of which have been in effect for the past fifteen years.

## The South

## First RWDSU Contract Won At Miami Tomato Co. Plant After 46-9 Vote Victory

MIAMI, Fla.—In their first RWDSU contract the 57 workers of the Miami Tomato Corp. here won a 10 cents an hour package providing wage gains and welfare coverage, it was reported by Int'l Rep. Daniel H. Klein. The employees of the plant, operated by the nation's largest packer and distributor of fresh tomatoes, voted overwhelmingly, 46 to 9, for Local 885 in an election April 26. The victory followed a swift organizing campaign led by Klein.

Of the 10 cents package, six cents an hour—or \$2.40 per week—will be paid for each employee by the company to the RWDSU's Southeastern Health and Welfare Plan for health insurance under the plan. In addition, the average hourly pay rate for female employees is now \$1.06 per hour and the rate for men, \$1.16. Minimum wages were raised from \$1 to \$1.06, going to \$1.10 after 60 days employment.

The one-year contract provides that employees receive time and a half after 40 hours, and that the work will be equally distributed to all employees.

### Grievance Machinery, Arbitration

Also provided are grievance machinery and the arbitration of disputes, dues checkoff, seniority rights and paid vacations.

Negotiations for the initial agreement at Miami Tomato were opened on May 5 with a committee of four workers and two union officials representing the employees. Talks bogged down to a deadlock, and after a two-week delay brought to a head by a strike vote, the company sent a vice president from its main office in

Atlanta, Ga., to enter negotiations.

From that point, the agreement was reached after a series of six meetings. Serving on the union's negotiating committee were Osceola Chatman, Porter Allen, Jennie Miller and Francis White. They were assisted by Klein and Int'l Rep. Harry Bush.

## 'Singing Mailmen' Make Big Hit in Miami Area

MIAMI, Fla. (PAI)—A group of 25 "Singing Mailmen" consisting of Post Office Clerks and Letter Carriers in the Miami area has been making a big hit here ever since the group was organized five years ago.

The group is constantly being invited by local organizations to appear at meetings and conventions and are a "must" for all postal parties.

Highlight of the group's activities this year was its appearance as the supporting choral group at the Miami Beach Exhibition Hall in the pop concert by the Miami Symphony Orchestra conducted by guest conductor Leo Reisman.

## H. L. Green Warehouse Votes RWDSU in Tuscaloosa

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.—Preparations were being made by the RWDSU for negotiations for an initial agreement covering the employees of the warehouse of H. L. Green, variety chain store.

In a representation election held July 10 the warehouse workers voted 13 to 6 for the RWDSU as their bargaining agent. They had been organized in a campaign led by Alabama RWDSU Council Org. C. T. Daniels.

The warehouse serves Green's stores throughout the state of Alabama. One of them, in Ensley, a suburb of Birmingham, is under contract to the RWDSU.

## Pact Talks Open With Large Bakeries

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—Contract negotiations are in progress or in preparation at several large bakery plants in this region, employing a total of 800 RWDSU members.

The ultimate settlements will be shaped by the contract won by the union after a 15-day strike against the

"Big Four" of Birmingham's baking industry—Ward, McGough, American and National Biscuit. Details of that city-wide settlement are carried in an article on page 3.

The Birmingham pact, with its high wage standards and increased guaranteed minimum in salesmen's earnings, is expected to set the pattern for contracts with bakeries throughout the Southeastern states and other parts of the country.

Largest of the units where talks are taking place is the American Bakery plant in Charlotte, N.C., employing 150 workers. Revisions are long overdue there, Regional Director Irving Lebold said, and the union is pressing hard for them. The pact there expires Aug. 30.

Negotiations are also under way at another American plant, this one located in Gadsden, Ala., and at Hardin's Bakery in Tuscaloosa. Meanwhile in Charleston, N.C., negotiations for a first contract were nearing completion at Clausen's Bakery, where the RWDSU recently scored an election victory.



LEADERS IN LELAND, Miss., are these officers and shop stewards of Local 129A. Front row, l. to r., Jacob Cooks and Harris Gray; back row, Will Owens, Nathaniel Sanders, secretary, Cicero Ellis, Robert Williams and Willie Banks.



## Canada

# Canada Rice Mills Seen Forcing Strike Situation With 'No Raise' Attitude

VANCOUVER, B. C.—A management-forced deadlock in negotiations for renewal of the agreement between RWDSU Local 580 and the Canada Rice Mills has brought the case before a Conciliation Board. The dispute, which began last May after the union submitted its proposals for renewal, occurred because of the company's "negative approach" to every one of the proposals, Int'l Rep. Bud Hodgins reported.

Management Research, which is handling the negotiations for Canada Rice Mills, had refused to make any concessions whatever at a meeting before a

Conciliation Officer, leaving him no alternative but to recommend the setting up of a Conciliation Board. The union had attempted to get the company to negotiate in good faith, declaring that the employees were prepared to modify their original proposals.

One of the top sticking points is the company's adamant refusal even to discuss a wage increase, although the 75 members of Local 580 at the mills are paid from 16 to 28 cents an hour below the scale in effect for comparable work in the area's food industry. The company has also brushed aside the union's request for a union shop, pay days every second Friday, and other non-cost items.

### Company Stand Questioned

"It is hard to understand the company's attitude," Hodgins said, when in addition to the tremendous disparity in wages, Canada Rice workers do not enjoy a pension plan, full weekly indemnity, severance pay or vacations in line with those provided by this company's competitors."

Pointing out that the management's only response to the union's arguments has been a move to empty the warehouse of merchandise "in order to force the employees into a strike position," Hodgins added:

"The members are determined that if their employer chooses to meet their requests with this type of answer, it will be the company's responsibility."

## 3-Week Campaign Organizes 50 At Ottawa Firm

OTTAWA, Ont.—Certification of the RWDSU as bargaining representative of the 50 employees of the Heney Co., Ltd., here was expected soon following a hearing before the Ontario Labor Relations Board.

The workers of the plumbing and heating supplies house were organized by Blythe Anderson of the Local 440 staff. In a three-week drive, Anderson signed up an overwhelming majority of the employees.

When the firm is brought under contract, as Anderson anticipates, it will be the first of its kind with a union label in the Province of Ontario, he pointed out.

With the drive at Heney, Anderson continues his outstanding record of organizing new shops since he joined the staff of Local 440 a year ago. He had previously served as chairman of the Kemptville Division of the Dairy Workers Local.

## CLC Sets up Committee For White Collar Drive

OTTAWA (CPA)—A committee to co-ordinate organizing of white collar employees has been established by the Canadian Labor Congress, executive vice-president William Dodge announced here. Joe MacKenzie, director of the Congress Department of Organization, is chairman of the new committee.

The white collar group is composed of representatives of 20 CLC-affiliated unions with members in white collar occupations.

The committee will provide a clearing house for information on the extent of organization, trends in bargaining, and wage and salary data in the growing white collar field. Major groups of white collar workers are now employed in the steel, railway and automobile industries, and in general business offices.

Potential eligible union membership of white collar workers in Canada is estimated by the 1,160,000-member Congress at more than 50 thousand. Only about 10 per cent of this total is now organized in the labor movement.

The new CLC committee will meet at regular intervals to receive and evaluate reports on organizing progress in the white collar field, and to develop programs for new organizing campaigns, Mr. Dodge said.

## Conciliation Draws to Close At Silverwood in Toronto

TORONTO, Ont.—Proceedings before a Conciliation officer here on a renewal of a contract between the RWDSU and Silverwood Dairy in Toronto were nearing a conclusion at presstime July 15.

Covered by the pact are 500 employees of three Silverwood's branches in the city—Dupont, Norseman and East End—comprising the largest unit

of Local 440. The contract expired last April, and when direct negotiations failed to produce an agreement, the case went before the Conciliation officer.

Leading issue in dispute is the inclusion of Silverwood's foremen in the bargaining unit, Int'l Rep. George Barron pointed out. Hitherto, the foremen, numbering up to 100 during peak operations, have been exempt from union membership. Now the union is seeking to change that status.

Other issues to be decided in the conciliation proceedings are improvement of wages, holiday and vacation schedules and provisions for other fringe benefits.

The committee representing Silverwood's employees is headed by George Danby, chairman of the Toronto Division of Local 440.

### New Brunswick Added to List

OTTAWA (CPA)—New Brunswick became the eighth Canadian province to enter the federal-provincial hospital insurance plan on July 1, one year after British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Newfoundland began services.

Ontario and Nova Scotia entered January 1, 1959. Quebec and Prince Edward Island have not yet begun to participate.

The New Brunswick plan, besides providing the basic list of services to patients in hospital required by the federal act, also involves out-patient services including laboratory procedures as specified by the Provincial Commission and furnished by the Provincial Laboratory.

Other provincial features include services for emergency diagnosis and treatment required for medical rehabilitation, and other services specified by the Commission.

# Seaway a Monument to On-the-Job Cooperation

The St. Lawrence Seaway, formally opened by Pres. Eisenhower and Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, stands as a monument to labor-management relations at their best.

The seaway, which unlocks the Great Lakes for world trade through a complicated system of dams, canals, locks and dikes, could never have been completed ahead of schedule without top-flight cooperation between unions and employers.

As the new waterway to the nation's fourth seacoast was opened, this opinion was expressed by federal mediators, engineers, contractors' representatives and union officials who were closely associated with the billion-dollar construction project.

The cooperation between unions and employers is illustrated by the fact it took four and one-half years to finish work on the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Development—mammoth construction jobs that were originally projected over a six-year period.

With nearly a score of trade unions representing many of the 22,000 construction workers employed by Seaway-Power contractors at the peak work period, the record shows that there was only one major work stoppage and a mere handful of minor ones.

Col. Loren W. Olmstead, Buffalo district engineer for the U.S. Army Engineers during seaway construction, praised the unions and contractors for getting the job done with a minimum of delay.

"We look back with great satisfaction on the

labor-management relations the seaway project has enjoyed," Olmstead observed. "They were exceptionally good right across the board for a job of that magnitude."

The army engineer said his office kept a close watch on relations between unions and contractors because of "tight time schedules" to complete the project.

"Any serious work stoppage would have been disastrous to the overall program," he explained.

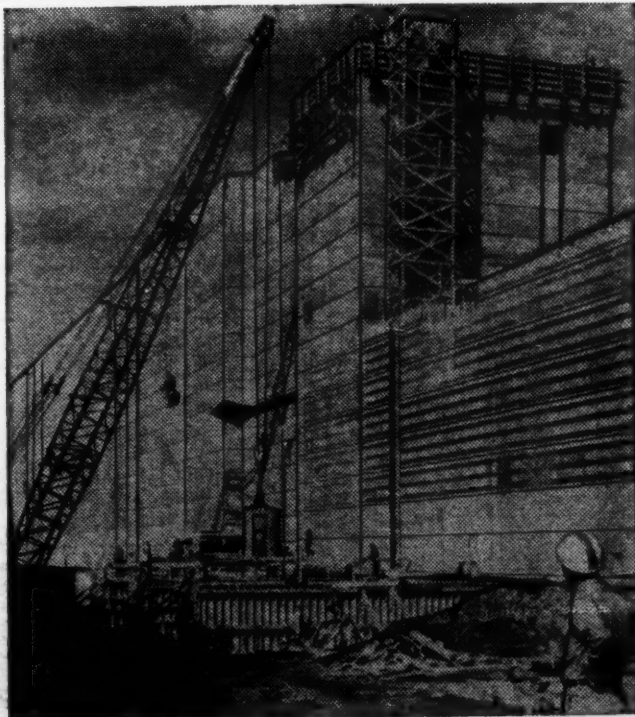
Olmstead credited a joint labor-management committee with maintaining stable and constructive relations. The committee anticipated problems of jurisdictions, working conditions and contract interpretations and in most cases was able to resolve questions and avert disputes before they arose.

Harry R. Erickson, a veteran of 17 years in industrial relations and personnel work, was in charge of labor relations for the St. Lawrence Seaway Contractors Association from its formation in 1954 until last summer. He had high praise for the unions representing Seaway-Power workers.

"You can't give them enough credit for the way this project was handled," Erickson declared.

He said most of the international unions involved assigned top-level staff members to the St. Lawrence construction projects. Erickson commented:

"These men recognized their dual responsibility to service the workers and to get the job done. They lived up to both jobs."



STABLE LABOR-MANAGEMENT relations helped speed completion of the St. Lawrence Seaway & Power Development, where more than 22,000 workers toiled with an almost unbroken record of mutual cooperation. Shown here is construction work on one of the huge locks that allow ocean-going vessels to enter the Great Lakes.



## How Nixon Committee Report Bolsters Employers' Refusal to Grant Raises

The story of how the Eisenhower Administration is throwing its whole weight behind powerful moves to hold down wages and even reduce the power of labor unions is now being written in Washington.

Right now it centers on the activities of what is called the Cabinet Committee on Price Stability for Economic Growth, which is a gobbledygook title behind which the battle against "soft" wage boosts and high union wage standards is being waged by the Eisenhower Administration.

The other day the Committee issued an "Interim Report" on the state of the economy, which to nobody's surprise faithfully echoed the Eisenhower Administration economic philosophy, which in turn echoes the Big Business line.

Even though the cost-of-living has been unusually stable during the past year, the Eisenhower Administration, as the Interim Report demonstrates, is determined to make "inflation" the biggest threat to the country, and with the idea nailed down, to beat back new wage boosts and cut down sharply on needed social services.

But the main onslaught is reserved for labor with the following "danger sign" given great prominence:

"Wage settlements have been made recently which raised wages substantially; wage agreements negotiated in earlier years provide for increases in rates this year; and wage agreements to be negotiated this summer or autumn in many industries (steel, aluminum, other metals, construction, rubber, lumber, railroads, paper, longshoring, meat packing, and metal containers are among them) could result in wage increases of such magnitude as to lead to price increases."

Inflation is the enemy, says the report. Yet who becomes the scapegoat?

Huge profits after taxes which are up 54 percent during the first quarter of 1959 as compared with the same period in 1958?

The booming stock market with values far inflated above their actual earning capacity—a grim reminder of the "boom and bust" of 1929?

Or the inflationary pressures of rising interest rates that have boomed bank profits?

Or price setting by monopolistic industries as high as the traffic will bear?

Not on your life!

All the accent is on wages.

President Eisenhower has gone out of his way to assure American workers that his Administration wouldn't dream of interfering in the current steel negotiations, and that he believes in "free voluntary collective bargaining."

### Direct Tie-In With Steel Talks

Yet the cold fact remains that this Nixon "Interim Report" is being used and will be used as a prime weapon against the Steelworkers in their important fight with Big Steel. Even more significant is the fact that it will be used in the coming negotiations in other industries which the Cabinet Committee went out of its way to note are on the eve of their own negotiations.

Business Week, the voice of a powerful section of American business and industry, has boldly predicted the use to which the Interim Report will be put in combatting "inflation" and so wage boosts.

In its current issue, the magazine reveals that the report was distributed early to the press "marked 'Hold for Release' just before the steel strike deadline" (then scheduled for midnight, June 30).

The motive, says Business Week, was to "get the most out of the report's language, both for drama and for impact," and "to win support for Eisenhower's stand against a new wage-price spiral . . ."

The Wall Street Journal, too, played up the "possibility of a steel industry wage settlement that might lead to a steel price increase is an inflationary danger that cannot be ignored" and quoted Economic Advisor Raymond J. Saulnier on the threat of pay raises.

The United Steelworkers have repeatedly published figures showing that productivity in the steel industry has far out-run wage increases, that steel prices have been advanced far beyond what wage boosts could possibly have justified; that steel profits even at lower than normal production rates have been high.

Yet these well authenticated claims are utterly ignored in the Nixon report which uses all the prestige of a national Administration to hammer home its own contention that wages virtually alone are responsible for rising costs that in turn make necessary rising prices.

There is no reference or even refutation of the fears long advanced by liberal and labor economists that the United States is simply not developing its economy as rapidly as it should—that we have wasted immense values through unnecessary recessions and that we are not building up our ability to consume the huge amount of goods that we are capable of producing.

These are arguments that are worthy of intelligent discussion and debate. Instead, the Nixon Committee is simply echoing the Big Business line that the Eisenhower Administration has now made its own: hold down wages, but boost interest rates for the benefit of the bankers; ignore the wild inflation of Wall Street, but complain that American workers are being paid too much; clamp down on public expenditures for desperately needed social and public services in the name of economy, but turn your back on eliminating tax loopholes for the upper brackets.

The Nixon Committee report has been described as laying the groundwork for the Republican campaign of 1960; if this is so, it is tragic that its first report should have been a political document rather than a reasoned economic document, which the country desperately needs.

**The Conspiracy  
Against  
Better  
Wages**







Labor leaders leave Washington via Air Force Transport plane for tour of SAC headquarters in Omaha, Neb.



Unionists are briefed by officer. At right center, RWDSU Pres. Greenberg and AFL-CIO Sec.-Treas. Schnitzler.



Deep underground in Omaha Strategic Air Command HQ, labor delegation hears how SAC runs U.S. air defense.



Wearing Air Force identification badges, AFL-CIO group of 30 makes its way through huge SAC control center.

## Labor Views U. S. Air Defense

AMERICA's powerful Strategic Air Command, the global striking force deterring Communist aggression against the U. S., was visited late in June by an AFL-CIO team headed by Sec.-Treas. William F. Schnitzler, and including RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg.

The 30-man labor group, in a day-long briefing session climaxed by a tour through SAC's command control center at Offutt Air Base in Omaha, Neb., was the guest of Gen. Thomas S. Power, SAC commander in chief.

Power, in a 90-minute briefing, told the facts about SAC's mission, organization, capability and manpower. His briefing was supplemented by SAC officers describing in detail the operations of the Air Force command which serves as a deterrent against war by packing a knockout punch for the enemy, if the Soviet Union ever attacked the U.S.

Power pointed to SAC's motto, posted on billboards at the base entrance: "Peace Is Our Profession."

That, he said, was not only SAC's aim but had been its accomplishment from its formation in 1946 until today—a period during which no enemy has dared attack this country. The deterrent concept—preventing an enemy from attacking by fear of consequences—is an ancient one, the SAC commander noted. But in an era of long-range bombers, hydrogen weapons and inter-continental ballistic missiles, it is vital to national existence.

Following the briefing, the AFL-CIO group, which also included Vice-Presidents James B. Carey, Joseph D. Keenan, Richard F. Walsh, Karl F. Feller, and Paul L. Phillips, toured the three floor underground command post. Facilities include a communication center, a global weather center, connections to a worldwide communications system, and a special long distance telephone system connecting the center to every SAC base in the U.S.

In the event of attack, the command post would automatically be sealed off and would become self-sustaining. It has its own air conditioning system, an independent water supply, an emergency electrical power system, complete communications systems for teletype and voice transmission, and a 30-day supply of emergency rations.

It is the home of what has been called the most important telephone in the U.S.—the bright red "Hot Line" used to alert SAC's entire combat force and which could send SAC into battle in less than 30 seconds.

"We felt a lot safer," said Pres. Greenberg, "when we left SAC headquarters, after we had seen the precautions our Air Force has worked out for the defense of our nation. And we had a greater appreciation of the problems involved in that task, too."





# How to Start a Credit Union in Your Local

Why don't you have a credit union in your local? Chances are it's for one of three reasons:

1. *Members* of your union don't realize how much it will help them.
2. *Officers* of the union don't realize how many of their members have never learned how to save, can't get low cost credit, or are paying outrageous rates on installment contracts.
3. *Both* figure it would take a lot of work to start a credit union so no one takes the initiative.

Actually, it *easy* to start and operate a credit union. No special skills are needed. Ordinary people soon learn how to do it, and you can get expert help without any cost or obligation.

And apart from their general need for low-cost

unions aim for efficient operation and maximum service to the members, at the lowest cost.

Credit unions are democratic, too. Each member has one vote, no matter how many shares he has.

## HOW TO ORGANIZE IN YOUR LOCAL

With a little work your local can organize and operate a successful credit union. Here is a step-by-step outline to show you how you can get started.

1. First of all, get others interested. Talk it up. Remember, a credit union is an association of people—not one man's pet project.

2. Next, avail yourself right at the beginning of the experienced help and advice which is yours for the asking. With more than 25,000 credit unions in operation, there's plenty of help to be had. Best source is your Credit Union League, a nonprofit association of credit unions in your state dedicated to furthering the interests of credit unions. The league will probably send out an experienced field man who will work with you closely until you're firmly on your feet. There's no charge or obligation when you ask the league for help. You also can talk to the leaders in other local unions of the RWDSU that already have credit unions. The RWDSU's District 65 in New York operates the biggest trade union credit union in the country.

3. The league field man will ask you to call together key people from your local. He'll help you explain the credit union idea, answer any questions that come up. If the group decides it wants a credit union, he'll help you apply for a government charter.

### Who may belong?

Often a member of a local union will get a credit union started in the shop where he works. Although the union will carry the ball in getting it underway, the organizers will invite all who work in the shop to join when it's time to formally set up the organization. Credit union leaders encourage this: not only it is good public relations for the union—but it makes a better credit union too.

Every credit union is chartered by the government, either state or federal, depending on the locality. Usually seven or more prospective members are required to sign the application. Each of them will be asked to invest a small amount, generally \$5. When your credit union is in oper-

ation, this money will be credited to their share savings accounts. The government charter fee is small—about \$10.

Together with the charter application, you'll need to file a set of by-laws containing your credit union's operating procedures. The league fieldman will supply you with a model set of by-laws.

The league fieldman will help you through the next steps, which include setting up a committee to nominate officers and members of the credit committee and supervisory committee, and setting up an organizational meeting.

It's a good idea to get as many people eligible for membership in the new credit union as possible to the organizational meeting. The principles, purposes, and benefits of a credit union



credit, union members particularly need a source of cheap credit during critical periods such as in strike situations or layoffs when members' credit can become strained enormously.

## WHAT'S A CREDIT UNION?

Basically, a credit union is simply a financial self-help group, formed by people who already have a common bond, for two purposes: 1) encouraging saving; 2) providing a source of low-cost credit for the members.

Membership is restricted to those who share the common bond. Members' savings are actually shares in the credit union. These shares earn regular dividends, usually about 3% to 4% per annum. Shares may be withdrawn in a way similar to other types of savings accounts.

Interest on loans is kept as low as possible. The maximum allowed by law is 1% per month on the unpaid balance. Interest on a \$100 loan repaid in equal monthly installments in a year would be approximately \$6.50. Some credit unions also refund part of the interest, to make the cost even less.

Credit unions can afford to make loans at this low price and still pay sufficient dividends to attract the capital necessary to operate because they are nonprofit voluntary groups dealing only with their members and not the general public.

All officers serve without pay, with the exception of the treasurer who may be paid if the credit union is large enough. Larger credit unions also hire a full-time staff. Because they deal only with a select group of people who usually are well known to one another, they pay no investigation fees, and members have a much better repayment record than borrowers from banks and loan companies. In a word, credit



will be explained. Officers will be elected, and an open meeting of the new board of directors will be held.

At this first board meeting your new organization takes action on such things as applying for a bond for the treasurer, approving membership applications, opening the books of the credit union, etc. When the meeting is finished your credit union is in operation!

All of us tend to be cautious where our pocket-books are concerned. Don't be surprised if all your potential members don't stampede to sign up the first couple of months. To many, credit unions are still a new idea. An active, imaginative education committee can make a real difference in getting members to join and understand how the credit union can help them.

And as your assets grow, so will your ability to make loans. It's there where union members are often taken for a ride by loan sharks, finance companies and appliance dealers. Low-cost loans are the purpose of a credit union. The number of loans stamped "approved" by your credit committee is one of the yardsticks of the kind of service your credit union is giving its members.

During the first year of operation, it's inevitable that your officers will come up against problems. But remember you will always be able to get experienced help from other credit unions in your area, from your league, or from the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), an international, non-profit association of credit unions throughout the world. It's a movement made up of people who are out to prove that the brotherhood of man is a practical idea.

For further information on organizing and operating a credit union, write The Credit Union National Association, Madison 1, Wisconsin.

## Some of the Ways Credit Unions Help Union Members

1. Make it easier to save regularly.
2. Teach thrift and money management.
3. Help members get out of debt.
4. Provide low cost credit for good purposes.
5. Most credit unions provide insurance which pays off the insured borrower's loan in case of death or total and permanent disability, at no additional charge to member.
6. Most credit unions also provide Life Savings insurance which can add up to \$2,000 in insurance to the shares of members. Also provided at no extra cost.
7. Offer free counseling on family money matters.
8. Provide quick service in emergencies.
9. Give democratic control of money to the group, for their mutual benefit.



# society with a capital

By MAX STEINBOCK

It's time once more for us to take a long, close look at how the other half lives. Or rather, the fraction of one percent which goes under the name of Society with a capital S, not to be confused with society with a small s.

Just to make the distinction clear, the dictionary defines society as: "Human beings in general taken in relation to one another; an organized community." But Society with a capital S is defined as "the more cultivated or more fashionable part of the community." Or, as the Ladies' Home Journal says in its introduction to an article by Laura Riley entitled "Society in America": "People of wealth and influence associate with others who are rich and prominent; some outsiders always try to talk or buy their way into what they consider the elite circle."

How do people get into Society? Well, 'tain't easy, friends. The best way is to be born into it. And that means you have to choose your ancestors very carefully. Not only do they have to be white Anglo-Saxons, but preferably their ancestors should have made their family fortunes long ago—"so long ago that everybody's lost track of when they were out making their money and how much they have now." Also lost track of, apparently, is the manner in which the money was made, since some of the most respected Society names got where they are on the basis of wealth earned in the opium trade, in the slave trade or in theft of public lands.

However, time has a way of covering up such unsavory details, and today Society, far from feeling apologetic about the origins of its wealth, takes drastic measures to keep itself exclusive. One story in the Ladies' Home Journal article illustrates the lengths to which Society members will go to protect themselves from Outsiders, meaning all the rest of us.

It seems that a girl "from a small-town background" was dating one of Society's most eligible men. He seemed very much interested in her—but he never saw her alone, nor did he seem to want to. Instead, wherever they went, he brought along "one particular rather quiet but observant male friend. Even at an otherwise intimate dinner, the friend was present." In fact, even when her boy friend finally told her he loved her and wanted to marry her, the friend was right there—not saying anything but watching carefully. Who was this kibitzer? After the wedding, the girl learned that he was her husband's lawyer.

## Outsiders' Goal: The Social Register

Society has its own telephone book, the Social Register, which is as hard to get into as its exclusive clubs, debutante groups, dance classes, etc. There are always people trying to buy or beg their way into all of these. The LHJ article tells a touching story of why these outsiders want to get into the Social Register:

"They try not only for themselves but for their children—who come home from school stinging from taunts and ask their mothers, 'Why aren't we in the Social Register?' This happens often." Perhaps the LHJ has hit on an explanation of why there's so much juvenile delinquency these days. With so many poor little rich kids bitterly frustrated and unhappy because they're not in the Social Register, it's no wonder that many are turning to a life of crime.

For those on the inside, of course, things are pretty pleasant. Not only are they "looked on as proprietors of the most desirable of social worlds," says the LHJ, but theirs is "a world maintained by wealth . . . family importance going back at least several generations . . . comfortable living with expensive homes, clothes and possessions." One of the things this gives the members of Society is confidence. As one Boston matron "with long-standing and flawless social credentials" puts it:

"I don't suppose I've ever gone into a dining room feeling anything but supremely confident that I would have the best possible service and everybody would do everything to make things easy and pleasant for me. We all feel that way, all my friends and I. I think it's because we could always join any club we wanted to and have the best china and silver and beautiful paintings around so that even with no servants we still have this indefinable feeling that everything is going to be rich and elegant and beautiful for us. Breeding is part of it. I think it would be almost impossible to have that perfectly relaxed, utterly confident feeling without being born into it and having your mother before you feeling that way."

Aside from having a family inheritance of relaxed, confident feelings, Society membership pretty much requires an inheritance of good, hard cash. The LHJ article gets explicit on the cost of belonging to Society. "To move about comfortably and make an impression

without skimping," says the LHJ, a hostess should have an entertainment budget of \$50,000 a year. She should also maintain a beautiful wardrobe, including stunning evening clothes; she should have "at least a few impressive jewel pieces—a diamond necklace is a basic"; and an elegant apartment or home in New York—preferably both, with the home on Long Island, presumably in the North Shore estate area.

The LHJ figures that a family in this group needs at least \$100,000 a year after taxes to pay the freight—which means as much as \$250,000 before taxes. A \$5,000,000 inheritance invested at a nice safe 5% ought to take care of this minimum budget.

The capital investment required for homes, furniture, automobiles, jewels and other "big-ticket" items regarded as essential in society adds up to at least a million dollars—and that doesn't account for current expenses.

Of course, you may run into exceptional expenses, as did Mr. and Mrs. Archbold van Beuren last fall when they gave their daughter Marilla a debut party. Fortunately, they own a great big mansion in Newport, R. I. so they had a place to hold this shindig without having to rent the back room of the local tavern. The 800 guests and Marilla herself had a fine time. The bill: \$50,000.

## Cheaper Than The Good Old Days

As the LHJ points out, this was very modest compared with the Babs Hutton debut, where the decorations alone cost that much, or the \$369,200 costume ball that Mrs. Bradley Martin gave in a noble effort to stimulate business and thus alleviate the suffering of the poor people she had read about.

Those were the good old days when, one Society matron sighs, "it was perfectly all right to go ahead and enjoy your money." That was when guests at Society dinner parties were handed cigarettes rolled with \$100 bills, and served oysters filled with black pearls. At Helen Lee Eames Doherty's debut in 1930, the young lady gave favors to a dozen friends and acquaintances. The favors: "custom-made automobiles decorated with hunting scenes." In 1934, Clarence Mackay got a bill for a month's supply of floral and electrical decorations used while he was entertaining the Prince of Wales. The bill totaled \$125,000.

Nowadays, Society believes in keeping things simple. Take, for example, Mrs. Thomas Bancroft, Jr., a 26-year-old beauty who inherited "\$4,000,000 of solid, third-generation Standard Oil wealth," and who married a young man who is equally well fixed, with "a fortune made in banking and finance by his late grandfather." The young couple live in a tenement on Park Avenue where they can seat only 55 guests for dinner and have only about 400 in for a dance afterwards.

## The Simple Life of a Hostess

Last fall Mrs. Bancroft gave three dances, and two were small ones "with 30 for dinner, and about 100 people dropping in afterward." She also had one large cocktail party, a half dozen smaller dinners, was on the committee for nine large charity balls, and nearly every afternoon had friends drop in for cocktails. There's nothing elaborate about her dinners; she alternates between Rock Cornish game hen and chicken Kiev for the main course, and serves with it only the simplest of side dishes: consommé to begin; fillet of sole mousse with lobster sauce; zucchini and string beans amandine with the meat; a plain mixed green salad; creme brulee or baked Alaska for dessert, followed by Camembert and Brie cheese, and fruits. To wash down this simple fare, her guests drink dry Sherry, Montrachet white burgundy and Dom Perignon champagne. The champagne sells for \$11.33 a bottle—so don't get the idea that this simple entertainment is cheap.

For her large dance for 400 guests, Mrs. Bancroft hired seven extra butlers and four extra maids. There were two orchestras: a French group she had heard in Europe which was flown over especially for this occasion, and a local orchestra in the dining room. "For smaller dances she has only one orchestra," says the LHJ, somewhat apologetically.

But things aren't always rosy even for Mrs. Bancroft. It's a tiring life she leads. "One week last fall she went to three balls on three successive nights, and when a chairman called her up on the fourth afternoon and asked her to organize a table for 20 for another ball that same evening, she burst into tears, from sheer nerves."

So, just in case you're thinking of trying to get into the Social Register, remember: in addition to money and breeding and money and family and money and good manners and money and self-confidence and money and the right connections and, of course, money, you'd better have one more thing—nerves of steel for those crises that are part of being in Society.



# the beginning of a new era



Local 1199 Pres. Leon J. Davis is held aloft by hospital strikers at meeting which voted to accept settlement. To right, in dark suit, is Central Labor Council Pres. Harry Van Arsdale, who rallied labor to cause of exploited hospital workers.

## What Hospital Strikers Gained, and Their Plans for Future

By BERNARD STEPHENS

The strike conducted by the RWDSU's Local 1199 at seven voluntary hospitals in New York City ended June 22, its place in labor history assured by a number of unique accomplishments: This was the first such strike ever to take place in New York; it was the most widely reported strike in recent years (on the front pages for nearly two months); and, perhaps of greatest moment, it "brought forth the finest display of labor unity in the history of the city," in the words of Michael Mann, New York-New Jersey regional director for AFL-CIO.

What did the strike accomplish, and where will the hospital workers go from here? The Record went for the answers to Leon Davis, president of Local 1199 and the embattled strike leader who emerged as a figure of prominence in New York during the 46-day walkout at the seven large institutions.

The immediate economic gains for the 3,000 strikers have been widely publicized: a \$40 per week minimum wage, replacing incredible rates of \$32, \$30 and even less; the 5-day, 40-hour week, instead of hours running up to 48 a week; and time and a half for overtime, where before overtime was compensated for with "time off" or a 50-cent piece, as part of the plantation-owner attitude generally prevailing in the hospitals.

But Davis put the economic gains won in the strike within the broader context of the entire voluntary hospital field.

### 30,000 Will Benefit from Strike

"The fact is that the settlement terms affect some 30,000 workers in 81 voluntary hospitals," he said. "Some hospitals, in addition to the seven that were struck, went to the \$40 minimum at the conclusion of the strike, and still others will have to be prodded by their workers to do so; but before long these rates will be more or less uniform. For the many thousands of unskilled workers, those in the non-professional categories, this has meant a substantial increase.

"Moreover, the basis has been laid for regular economic improvements in the future. Establishment of a Review Board made up of public health officials as well as management practically guarantees further improvements on a regular annual basis. Rates and ranges are already in preparation at some hospitals in anticipation of the Review Board's first session in October.

With the union in the picture, we have the assurance that the entire matter of hospital wages will be taken out of the 'jungle' area of the past, and that workers will be compensated for their skills and years of service."

Davis has described the settlement terms as providing "backdoor recognition" of the union, and he always adds: "We'll be in the front door before long."

We asked him to explain to readers of The Record what was gained in this area, and how "back-door" recognition will be changed to full union recognition.

### Union to Fight for Full Recognition

"The settlement terms do not provide outright recognition of the union—that issue is yet to be fought out in the months to come," he replied. "But it is a fact that wherever the workers organize into Local 1199—in the struck hospitals and in all others—they have recourse to impartial arbitration of their grievances, and assurance that such grievances will be handled by a union representative. Thus the workers are no longer at the mercy of petty supervisors whose arbitrary decisions were often unfair and discriminatory. The fact that the workers now have such recourse should convince management to avoid creating grievances. Despite the bitterness and viciousness of the managements towards their workers because they dared to go out on strike, it is my hope that the hospital managements will realize they cannot continue to operate the hospitals in a cold war atmosphere.

"I believe management will realize that it is in the interest of hospital administration—as well as the workers, the sick and the public generally—that they recognize and deal with the union chosen by their workers. The alternative may well be a nightmare in which the managements will find they face more administrative problems than they bargained for."

What are the prospects for continued growth of the Hospital Division of Local 1199?

Davis said the Division would start with about 4,000 dues paying members, and "based on the response at many hospitals in the past month," he is optimistic about the chances for a speedy increase in that number:

"The basis has been laid for building a big union among the hospital workers, and Local 1199 intends to fully exploit the possibilities. It may be a long and difficult road, but we have great confidence in these workers. They have

shown through a bitter strike that they appreciate having a union, and once they have experienced even minimum gains secured through the strike they will understand the need to build a really big union that can achieve full recognition and real collective bargaining."

Davis asked that The Record express the "deep and heartfelt appreciation" of his union for the financial and other help given the strikers by labor generally, and by the RWDSU and its locals specifically.

"The support we received from hundreds of unions, from community organizations and thousands of individuals was almost unbelievable," he said, "not only the large amounts of money, but the tons of food, and the tens of thousands of individual union members who came to the picket lines. The help of our International, of its New York locals—and particularly of District 65, of course, was invaluable. Without the participation of District 65's leaders, staff members and membership we could not have succeeded."

### Decisive Aid from Other Unions

The rallying of the labor movement by Harry Van Arsdale, president of the Central Labor Council of New York City, was described by Davis as "decisive" in the successful prosecution of the strike.

"It was as if labor actually welcomed the strike as an opportunity to demonstrate to itself and the public generally its concern for the welfare of these underpaid workers, to show that labor had not lost its traditional concepts of solidarity, and to refute the McClellan Committee's attempt to picture labor as an evil force in the country."

One aftermath of the strike that is little known was mentioned by Leon Davis. It may well be the most important effect: In Philadelphia, news of the New York strike has started a movement among the 20,000 similarly underpaid hospital workers in that city, with thousands already signed up; in Buffalo, several hospitals are already solidly organized; in Kansas City, at least one hospital has been organized; in other cities the beginnings of organization are reported.

The great hospital strike of 1959, organized and led by a local of the RWDSU, may well go down in history as the first wave of a movement destined to free from economic slavery many thousands of the country's most exploited workers.



# I'm Always the Last Straw

By JANE GOODSELL

Some people go through life being mean, nasty and short tempered. Not me, though. I'm sweet and polite. I'm meek to the point of submissiveness. I'm kind and gentle and considerate. Or anyway I would be if everyone weren't so mean to me.

I think it is my role in life to be next in line behind the world's most difficult people. I follow in the footsteps of grouches, bullies and fuss-budgets. Does anybody get mad at them? I'll bet not! It's me they get mad at. Me, one of the world's most reasonable people.

Why must I always be the last straw. WHY?

I took my iron into an electric repair shop to have it fixed. "Could you do it as soon as possible?" I asked courteously. "I really do need it."

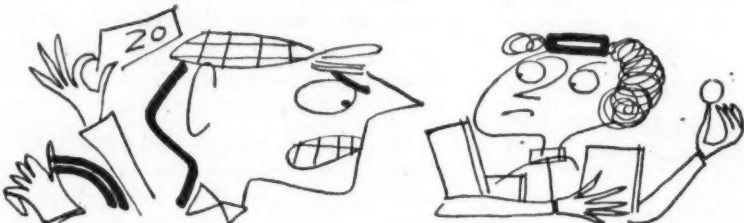


The man who was writing out my claim check, flung down his pencil and glared at me as though I had pointed a gun at him.

"You women are all alike!" he shouted. "You want everything done right now, right this very minute, and then you wait two months before you come back to pick it up. Why, there was a woman in here this morning to pick up a blender she brought in six weeks ago. Made me promise to have it done that very afternoon. Six weeks she waits before she shows up to get it. And then you come in here telling me I should drop everything else and fix your iron!"

Did he get mad at that woman? Fat chance. It's me he has to blow his top at, and all I did was ask him very politely to please fix my iron as soon as possible.

Bus drivers don't yell at people who hand them twenty dollar bills. They yell at the next person who boards the bus after the person with the twenty dollar bill. That's me. I have the correct change, but I also have a lot of bundles, and it takes me a couple of seconds to juggle them under my arm in order to get my money into the slot.



The bus driver scowls and barks, "Make it snappy, lady! I'm behind schedule, and you're holding up the line!"

I slip into a seat at a lunch counter, and look over the menu for a minute while I hesitate between a chicken sandwich and grilled ham and cheese. The counterman drums his fingers in front of me. "Okay, okay, what'll it be?" he snaps. "This is rush hour, you know."

Is it my fault the customer ahead of me didn't leave a tip?

All I did was ask the dentist if it was going to hurt, and he tossed down his instruments in disgust. "Good Lord," he muttered, "don't tell me I've got another hysterical woman on my hands!"

Was it my fault the patient just ahead of me fainted and threw his day off schedule?

Was it my fault that the lady whose bedroom the painter had just finished suddenly changed her mind and decided she didn't like green after all, and made him do it over in pink? Was that any reason for him to lecture me on the feeble-mindedness of women? All I did was suggest that it might be a nice idea to wallpaper the kitchen ceiling.



—'Record' Drawings by Marjorie Glaubach

Why do I always pick a saleslady who has just spent an hour and a half waiting on a rude, imperious customer, who tried on 16 dresses and walked out without buying anything? I'm not rude, and I'm not imperious. I smile and ask timidly, "Can you help me?"

The four-year-old next door kicked my three-year-old in the shins. Did she kick him back? Of course not. Instead she came into the house and threw a temper tantrum because I asked her, very nicely, to wash her hands for lunch.

Is it any wonder I kicked the dog?

# Teeners Found Influential In Family's Buying; Parents Told: 'Watch Out!'

By SIDNEY MARGOLIUS

Consumer Expert for The Record

Parents will have to be increasingly careful about heeding the suggestions of their children about what to buy. The use of business-sponsored teaching materials in schools and colleges is growing at a rapid rate, with these results already noticeable:

• Teenagers especially are successfully being influenced to buy the more highly advertised brand name products. They also are showing strong preferences for those products whose manufacturers are most active in supplying booklets and other teaching materials to schools.

• Teenagers have a bigger influence than is realized in their parents' buying decisions. One poll, for example, found that over half the high school students surveyed helped their families decide what car to buy. Your teenager is really susceptible to advertising.

A researcher found that General Electric, which is among the most active contributors of educational materials and also advertises heavily in school magazines, leads the preferences of teenagers for electrical equipment by a big majority. Surveys have found that two out of three students reported they are "most impressed" by this manufacturer.

Similarly, the Ford car, whose maker has as its announced aim "to catch tomorrow's market while it is young," and advertises most actively to teenagers, is also the most popular car among youngsters. A survey by Scholastic Magazine found twice as many high school kids preferred Ford to Chevrolet, with Mercury also ranking high with high schoolers.

But it's in the field of toiletries and cosmetics that brand name advertising, whether through the schools or general advertising, is most successful and potentially costly to your family. Scholastic Magazine reports that its surveys find school girls strongly prefer the more expensive cosmetics and toiletries.

The truth is, many tests have found that the chief difference between costly and low priced brands of such toiletries as cold cream is merely the addition of a more expensive perfume.

## TV Pushes Costlier Products

Besides classroom materials, television has been a particularly successful medium in convincing children that the highly advertised, costlier products are the best to buy. One researcher reports that high school boys spend about two hours a day viewing TV, and girls a little over an hour and a half.

Teachers themselves report that business sponsored materials are successful in persuading kids of all ages to buy the products of sponsors of these materials. In fact, the older teenagers are even more susceptible to influence than the younger ones, although at all ages a large number are influenced.

The New York Times recently reported that one in five major corporations now supply teaching aids to schools and colleges, with millions of dollars spent each year on these materials. The actual teaching aids include booklets, handbooks, group discussion kits, charts and films which the teachers use in classroom instruction. Some corporations even provide speakers, awards and prizes and special information services.

Generally, the materials do not plug products in a blatant way, but attempt to give the kids what advertising experts call a "corporate image."

One cereal company, Ralston, distributed guides to 100,000 teachers who requested them through the various channels. The teachers use these guides to coordinate their geography instruction with the Ralston "Bold Journey" TV program. To encourage the use of the classroom materials, the Ralston company gave travel awards to teachers.

"Bold Journey" undoubtedly is one of the better TV programs for youngsters. The company also is outstanding for not using cheap premiums to sell its cereals. But for teachers to instruct students to watch the program is a dubious use of the public schools to help promote a particular product. It is noteworthy that sales of Ralston Wheat Chex and Rice Chex increased 34 per cent in one recent year, against an average of five per cent for such dry cereals.

## Insurance Firms Reach Youngsters

The insurance industry is one of the most active in reaching young people. The Life Insurance Institute distributes two million booklets a year in schools and colleges. These handsomely printed teaching aids include handbooks for the students and guides for teachers, to accompany the handbooks. The handbooks heavily promote life insurance and commercial health insurance, but don't tell all sides of the insurance story.

One way corporations get materials into classrooms is by awards and other helps to the teachers themselves, like the Ralston travel awards. The Institute of Life Insurance sponsors the National Committee for Education in Family Finance, which in turn, sponsors "Family Finance Workshops" at various colleges. The committee gives teachers scholarships and grants to attend the workshop courses.

A large chemical manufacturer, American Cyanamid, which is active in supplying teaching materials, also gives teachers summer jobs.

This is only a small part of a big story. Another part, as Mark Starr, ILGWU educational director, recently pointed out, is that unions find it difficult to get facts of union life before school students. Thus students often have a distorted view of unions, tending to associate them with violence and labor "monopoly." Consumer cooperatives also recently complained that some new school materials give a distorted view of co-ops.

But until more of this story comes out, be careful about taking your school youngster's advice about what to buy. As you can see, because he learned about a product in school doesn't at all guarantee it's the best buy. You may have to do some educational work yourself to teach your children real facts about how to compare values.



# lighter side of the record

## Turnabout

A white rat, recently returned from the laboratory to his cage, ran up to a fellow rat in great excitement. "You know what?" he exclaimed. "I've got Dr. Zilch conditioned!" "How so?" asked his buddy. "Well," said the first rat, "every time I go through the maze he gives me food!"

## Bad Impressionism

A cynical-minded gentleman was standing in front of an exhibition of local art talent labeled "Art Objects." "Well," he announced to the attendant in charge, "I can't say I blame Art for objecting."

## Tourism

A tourist is a fellow who travels many hundreds of miles to get a snapshot of himself standing by his automobile.

## Logician

The progressive warden of a penitentiary recently passed out a questionnaire to all the inmates. Question one was, "Why do you think you are in prison?" Convict Number 20637's answer was, "I got caught."

## Come Now!

Have you heard about the Little Moron who peeled and threw several onions into the river? He wanted to see the River Kwai.

## Head Choppers

Summer is the big season for the shutterbugs. These amateur photographers have cut off more heads than the guillotine.

## Quiet Married Life

We never fight, my wife and I,  
Too civilized are we.  
No angry words are prompted by  
A failure to agree.  
She never makes the dishes fly  
Nor gives my nose a tweak.  
I never poke her in the eye.  
(We just refuse to speak!)

—Hal Chadwick

## Like a Stopped Clock

The human brain is a wonderful thing. It starts working the moment you are born, and never stops until you stand up to speak in public.

## Eye Test

An elderly lady was having her eyes examined. The optician placed some cards at a distance with the letters XZPTVCH and asked her if she could see them clearly. "I can see them clearly," she said, "but I can't read Russian."

## Telltale Rubbish

We've heard a lot about barometers of business conditions but the latest is absolutely rubbish. United Press International reports that garbage collections have been found to indicate rises and falls in economic conditions. One eastern city reports that collections fell more than 15,000 tons during the recent recession. Today they are running 200 tons a week over a year ago, reflecting enlarged food purchases and greater replacement of old household goods.

## Runner-up

Guest at wedding reception:  
"Are you the bride-groom?"  
Young man: "No ma'am, I was eliminated in the semi-finals."

## Imperfect Loot

Zsa Zsa Gabor, never at a loss for a few thousand words, insists she never takes gifts from perfect strangers—then adds, "but who's perfect these days?"

## Shrunken Clue

The big game hunter was captured by jungle head hunters who made a practice of shrinking and preserving their victims' heads. He was thought to be lost forever, but two years later he phoned his wife from a jungle outpost, saying he had escaped from the head hunters. "I need clothing," he told her over the phone. "The wild men fed me, but my clothing is completely gone. Send me some shirts, size 16, and a suit, size 38." "Anything else?" asked the wife, happy that her husband was safe. "Oh, yes," said the man, "a hat—size one."

## Candid Comment

A woman's memory seldom fails until it comes to her age or the last line of a joke.

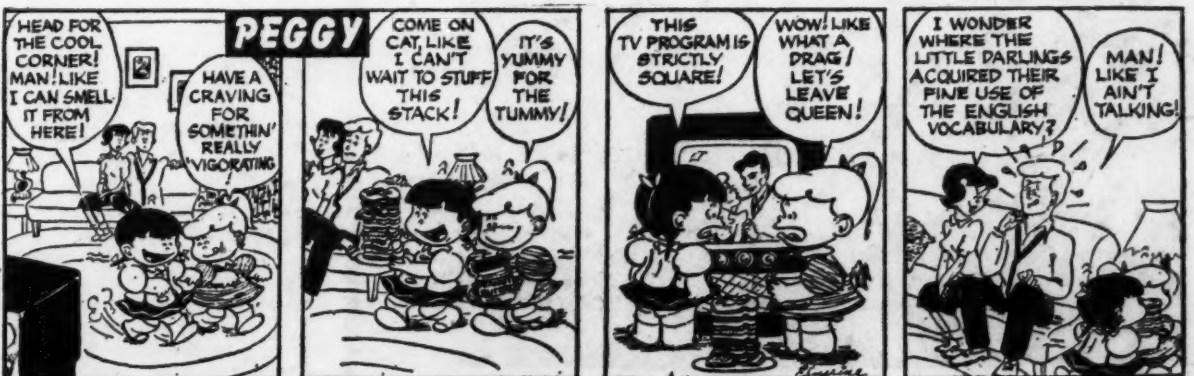
## Daffynitions

Miser: He lets the rest of the world go by.  
Overeating: The destiny that ends our shapes.

### COMPANY DOG



THIS IS OBVIOUSLY AN OUTSIDE INJURY. I SUGGEST YOU CONSULT YOUR FAMILY DOCTOR...



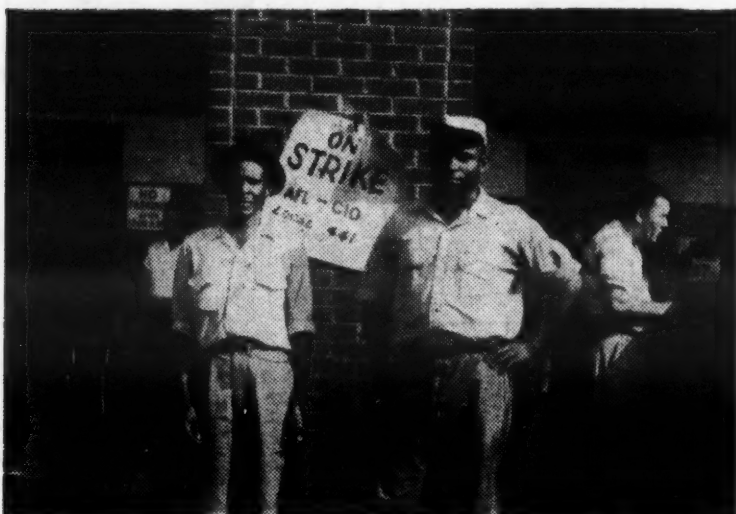
Pretty Lenore Miller urges: drive carefully on your vacation.



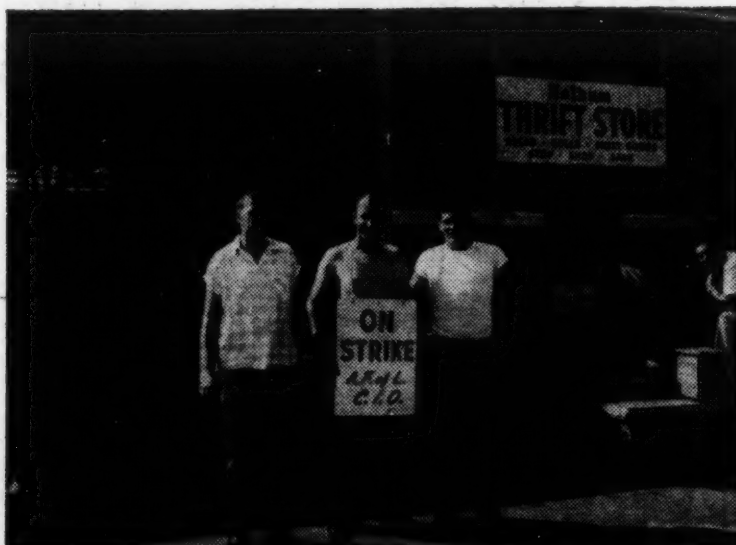


## Victory For 1,000 In Ala. Bakery Strike

**PACT ENDS STRIKE** in Birmingham's "Big Four" bakeries as signatures are affixed by management and RWDSU representatives to citywide agreement. Signing, left, is James F. Egan of Ward's Bakery. Others, seated, l. to r., are Ass't Area Director Frank Parker and Local 441 committee members Int'l Rep. Bill Langston, Melvin Simpson and William Bordelon. Behind them are, l. to r., Lewis Oddo, R. B. Henderson, Northern Plunkett, Ben Stadler, "Bull" Lang, B. W. Wainwright, Lee Hudson and C. E. LeCroy. Also participating but not shown here, was Local 441 Pres. Fields.



**PAIR OF PICKETS** before Ward's Bakery plant made sure that plant stayed closed. Settlement came on July 12, bringing wage boosts ranging up to \$11.



**WHOLESOME IMPROVEMENTS** were won by "Holsum" bakers, employees of McGough Bakery, three of whom are shown here picketing during strike by RWDSU against "Big Four."

**T**HE victorious end of the 15-day strike by the 1,000 employees of the "Big Four" of the baking industry in Birmingham, Ala., on July 12 is vividly recorded in the photo in the upper part of this page.

It shows the signing of a citywide contract between the RWDSU and the Ward, McGough, American and National Biscuit plants—an agreement that brings wage boosts of up to \$11 a week and raises the guaranteed minimum in salesmen's earnings by \$24 a week. Improved welfare and pension coverage were also won.

Among the other "dividends" of the strike hailed by union leaders is uniformity of pay scales and conditions among the various job categories in the four big baking plants. Gains were scored for employees in all departments—production, transport, maintenance and sales.

Ass't Area Director Frank Parker, who led the complex negotiations with the "Big Four" management group, called the settlement "an outstanding contract." He added: "The members feel that they have won a real fine agreement."

The Birmingham pact, with its high standards in wages and fringe benefits, sets the pattern for negotiations in the baking industry throughout the Southeastern states.

For full details of the strike and the victorious settlement, see the article on Page 3 of this issue.